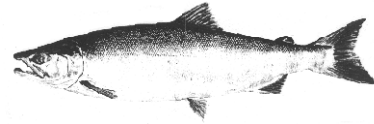


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact: Pat Shields, Area Management Biologist; 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B Phone: (907) 262-9368 Date Issued: March 27, 2012	Aaron Dupuis, Asst. Area Management Biologist Soldotna, AK 99669 Fax: (907) 262-4709 Time: 1:00 p.m.
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-01-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 reduces the open fishing time from twelve hours to six hours per day for the four commercial king salmon fishing periods scheduled in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet for the 2012 season. The fishing periods affected by this announcement occur on the following four Mondays: May 28, June 4, June 11, and June 18, 2012. On these days, commercial fishing with set gillnets will be open in all waters of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. only; except commercial salmon fishing remains closed for the entire 2012 directed king salmon fishery in that portion of the General Subdistrict of the Northern District from a point at the wood chip dock located approximately three miles south of Tyonek at 61° 02.56' N. lat., 151° 14.36' W. long., to the Susitna River (see map on page 2). All areas will return to their normal fishing schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning on Monday, June 25, 2012.

At the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, king salmon originating from the Chuitna River drainage were found to be a stock of management concern. As a result of this finding, the king salmon sport fishery in this drainage was closed, beginning with the 2011 season. The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.366) specifies that if the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the commissioner shall close the commercial king salmon fishery, by emergency order, from the wood chip dock to the Susitna River. This emergency order implements that mandatory closure. Escapement monitoring of king salmon stocks throughout the Northern District in 2011 revealed a pattern of continued low abundance. With a below-average outlook for the upcoming season, and uncertainty over how quickly king salmon abundance may rebound, both sport and commercial fisheries in the Northern Cook Inlet area will be managed conservatively during the 2012 season. The reduction in fishing time to Northern District commercial fisheries is intended to provide additional escapement of Chinook salmon in streams throughout the Northern District.

